

**In the title:**

Please replace the title of application with the following rewritten title:

-- DIRECT END-OFFICE ATM TRUNKING --

**In the specification:**

Please insert the following as the first sentence of the specification:

--This application is a Continuation of application serial number 09/220,020, filed December 23, 1998, currently pending.--.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10 from lines 10-20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In order to simplify the translations tables in the TDM switch 10, it is preferable to configure the TDM switch so that the virtual trunks that terminate on the MSPs 40A,B are viewed by the TDM switch 10 as a single large trunk group. This is explained in detail in applicant's ~~co-pending~~ co-assigned patent application entitled APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COMPLETING INTER-SWITCH CALLS USING LARGE TRUNK GROUPS which was issued as United States Patent No. 6,141,342 on 31 October 2000, ~~filed on 2 December 1998 and assigned Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_~~, the specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.--.

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

-- An apparatus and method for providing direct trunking between a TDM switch and an ATM-backbone network are described. The apparatus is an interface adapted to convert pulse code modulated data to ATM-cells the data format of the backbone network and vice versa. The interface is adapted to emulate a trunk peripheral of the TDM switch by communicating with a computing module of the switch using a messaging protocol native to the computing module. The interface may therefore be connected to the TDM switch without any modification of the computing module. The interface is connected directly to a serial link of a fabric interface of the TDM switch. The advantages include a reduction in the capital investment in equipment required to connect a TDM switch to an ATM-backbone network and a reduced footprint for the equipment.--.